

MURDERING PEOPLE FOR TRACTION DOLLARS

Administration and Newspapers Should Compel Decent Service on Present Lines Before Talking Subway.

By N. D. Cochran, Editor of The Day Book.

It's a cinch there's something rotten in both the proposed merger of the street railways, surface and elevated, and in the proposed subway as well.

Of course all the long-winded editorials are based on what the people of Chicago want and what they ought to have. That's what you think on reading the editorials. But what they really advocate is what the publisher of each particular paper wants the people of Chicago to want; and we have no means of knowing each publisher's connection with the railways.

I have at least one good reason for thinking that neither the newspapers nor the city administration is bothering about what the people of Chicago really want.

FOR WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS SOMETHING THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION CAN EASILY GET FOR THEM WITHOUT ISSUING A DOLLAR'S WORTH OF BONDS.

THEY WANT BETTER SERVICE ON THE STREET RAILWAYS WE NOW HAVE.

If Mayor Harrison will personally investigate all of the surface and elevated lines running to and from the loop district, he will find that the people who ride on street cars are being treated like cattle—treated with less consideration than the four-legged cattle out at the stockyards are treated.

If four-legged cattle were packed in cattle cars like men, women and children are packed in street cars, the humane society would kick up a rough house about it.

If Mayor Harrison would visit some of the transfer points during the rush hours, and see men, women and children standing in snow, mud, slush or water, waiting for a car, and then standing there at times until several cars have passed before they get on one, he would see how he could help them by making the street railways put on more cars.

They may talk all they please about the congestion in the infernal loop, but that won't prevent running more cars and giving the people better service.

There is only one reason why the people are treated like cattle, and that is because the fewer cars the companies run and still get all of the nickels, the greater the profit for stockholders.